Society PAGES

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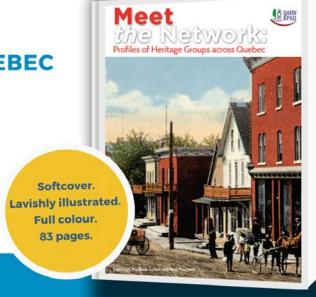
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morrin.org



No. 80

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THE LHSQ LIBRARY

Photo credit: Dylan Page Photography

Letter from the President

Gina Farnell



It seems that Spring has arrived sooner than usual in our fair city this year. With it comes renewal: buds in the trees, the St. Lawrence freed of ice, plans for gardening, youngsters riding their bicycles...

Spring also brings the annual general meeting of Literary and Historical Society of Quebec members. It is a moment to look behind at what was accomplished and a time to look forward with eagerness and excitement at what lays ahead. It is also the time to renew the composition of the LHSQ Council and time for me to bid everyone the best of luck. As you read these lines, the AGM may be behind us. A new Council, Executive, and President will have been elected.

I have now completed four terms as President. It is with a mixture of fondness and satisfaction that I step down. Fondness for the productive meetings, sharing of ideas, and the programming the Morrin has offered to its members. Satisfaction as I think back on the COVID years and how the Morrin team sailed through those rough seas. All in all, it was quite a journey.

My term as President gave me the opportunity to work with committed people at all levels. It is the team that made it all happen. I will never thank the staff enough, under the leadership of our Executive Director Barry McCullough. I am thankful for the amazing work done by a dedicated team of volunteers, among which are Council members and its Executive who tirelessly support the Morrin Centre's mission. It would be amiss not to mention the heartening support of sponsors and foundations whose financial contributions speak volumes to the vitality of our community.

I was encouraged by Christmas cards sent by some of you, the members. It never ceased to surprise me when someone in the community approached me to comment on my letter in the *Society Pages*. This was truly appreciated.

All my best to the new crew taking the helm of this beautiful ship that is the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. All hands on deck!



From the Executive Director Barry McCullough

Dear members, friends, and partners,

Winter has been a whirlwind at the Morrin Centre. Nearly every week has been filled with multiple activities from our *Storytime* and *S.T.E.A.M. Club* to one of our two book clubs to evening cultural events. We kicked off our programming on January 6 with a special celebration to launch our 200th anniversary programming. The evening was filled with a special concert from members of the Orchestre symphonique de Québec, a look back at the beginnings of the Lit and Hist. by Louisa Blair, special exhibits from Kathleen Hulley and her library team, and more. It was a memorable way to begin a very important and exciting year for us.

Early April is one of my favourite times of the year as it brings the Imagination Writers' Festival back to the Morrin Centre. This year, from April 9 to 14, we are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the festival and we have a great lineup in store. To mark the occasion, we have invited one alumnus or alumna from each of the previous 14 years of the festival along with a dozen first-time presenters.

Bringing both of these anniversaries together is our project *Illuminated*: 200 Years of the LHSQ. From April 9 to 13, the facade of the Morrin Centre and the annex of the Maison de la littérature will be brought to life with projections. The Morrin Centre will be lit up with an artistic audio-visual look at the history of the Society. Meanwhile, at the Maison de la littérature, published authors will perform live writing. This is a project that has long been at the top of our wish list and we are delighted to be able to share it with you during our double anniversary year.

I hope to see you at one of our special April events!

Transactions

Poet's Dream and Domestic Chemistry: The Morrin Centre's New Tea Blends

By Anthony Arata

In celebration of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's 200th anniversary, two personalized tea blends were developed. Made by La Maison de 100 Thé on Rue Maguire, these tea blends were presented to the public on January 6 and were quite well received. However, few people knew how the names of these tea blends came to be nor the significance behind them. I am proud to share the origins of the names **Poet's Dream** and **Domestic Chemistry** and their connections to the Morrin Centre and the LHSQ.

The LHSQ is mainly known for its book collection, library, and rich literary heritage that is still growing today. We wanted to showcase and honour this part of the Morrin Centre in the **Poet's Dream** tea blends. Furthermore, historically speaking, a few great authors and poets have been either members of the LHSQ or have worked and passed through these doors. Though I cannot name all of them, I will mention the three most prominent who inspired us to name one of the tea blends for our literary heritage.

Philippe Aubert de Gaspé, author of Les Anciens Canadiens, was never a member of the LHSQ. He was, however, one of the sheriffs here at the common gaol, and is also the one who installed the gaol's infamous balcony right above our front entrance. Furthermore, his novel was written in part here at the common gaol when Philippe Aubert was locked up.

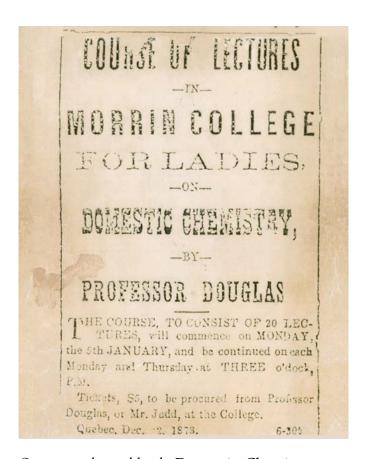
We also have the beloved **Louise Penny**, whose novel *Bury Your Dead*, set at the Morrin Centre, brings hundreds of tourists through our doors every year. Though she has she ever worked or lived at the Morrin Centre, she is an honorary member of the LHSQ and her literary work has had a great impact on us, so much so that we nickname tourists who are fans of her work "Penny People." Thanks to her novel, she gave the Morrin greater visibility abroad.

Finally, the last author to mention is none other than Louisa Blair. The author of books such as Iron Bars and Bookshelves, Daisy and the Donkey Church, Anglos of Quebec, and The Calf with Two Heads, she has promoted and showcased the rich heritage of the English-speaking community in Quebec City and is an active member of the LHSQ. She has helped in

the research of some of our temporary exhibits and continues to write new books revolving around the English community in Quebec. Thanks to her literary works, she continues to enrich the Morrin's literary heritage, which is why she deserves a special mention.

We hope that the **Poet's Dream** tea blend brings light to past, present, and future authors and poets of the LHSQ. With its delicate, fragrant taste, it will make you want to cozy up in your living room and inspire you to write something new. We want to personally thank all of those who have submitted their poems during our seasonal competition, with a special thanks to the winners of our poetry contest for allowing us to turn their poems into library displays. We hope you will continue to participate in our English literary workshops and competitions for years to come. That is our dream, or should I say, a *Poet's Dream*.





Our second tea blend, **Domestic Chemistry**, was named less as an honorary gesture and more as a subtle inside joke. In 1873, during the Morrin College era, a course called "Domestic Chemistry" was offered to the public, taught by none other than Professor James Douglas. The course was targeted to women, especially wealthy ones, to teach them how to cook and manage a household (among other things) using the knowledge and power of chemistry. Since the course was taught by a man who likely had little knowledge or experience when it came to cooking and cleaning, he often used tea to teach his students elementary chemistry.

One such example was to explain the notion of infusion by using a teapot and tea leaves. While the tea was brewing, he demonstrated the "brownness" slowly spreading through the solution until it equalized and made the whole solution brown-tinted. As for explaining the notion of dissolution and the concepts of solute and solvent, Douglas used a teaspoon of sugar and tea to prove that the best way to sweeten one's tea is by placing the spoon flat and dipping it only at the surface. The heat from the boiling water rises

and dissolves the sugar faster, and the sugar-dissolved tea sinks to the bottom because of its heavier density, leaving the sugar on the surface constantly in contact with unsweetened tea. Lastly, Professor Douglas taught these women how to test their tea blends to see if they were mixed with any other organic matter with a series of chemical experiments.

Because of this, our **Domestic Chemistry** tea blend consists of three different black teas, like what you would find in an English breakfast. Not only is it perfect for brewing a nice morning cuppa tea but it can also serve as a small chemistry set if you wish to follow Douglas' footsteps and try to identify the teas we have put together.

We hope that this not only piqued your interest for our tea blends and made you appreciate the meaning behind them, but also showed you the rich, interesting, and at times ridiculous heritage we have here.



The tea blends are available exclusively at our gift shop and can be purchased anytime throughout the year.

Pick up your tea bags today and share them with your friends and family!

Protecting the Past: Improving the Collection Storage at the Morrin Centre

By Kathleen Hulley, Head of Library & Collections



Intern Élizabeth Leboeuf with a repackaged print from the Stephens Collection.

This past year, the Morrin Centre collections team has been hard at work upgrading the storage for the LHSQ collections thanks to a 2023–2024 grant from the Museums Assistance Program at the Government of Canada.

One of the goals of the project was to improve the conditions of our storage and display spaces for the artifacts and books in our collections. For instance, UV filters and blinds were added to the windows in the Presidents' Hall in order to better protect the portraits of our presidents, from the beautiful oil painting of James MacPherson Lemoine by Robert J. Wickenden to the photograph of Archibald Campbell done by the Livernois studio. It is incredible how much damage light can cause!

Our collections storage spaces also received a major update: our artifacts are now together in two storage rooms devoted to the collection, with new shelving and technology to better protect the objects and monitor the environmental conditions. The latter is a necessity since we still don't have climate control in the entire building—a future project!

Another key aspect of the grant was to improve the packing of objects in storage. It is important to ensure that museum objects are properly housed, protected

in materials that won't damage them while they are stored. For example, a number of artifacts (from the china and toys donated by Hilda Stephens to maps and artworks collected over the years) were rehoused, some in custom-made acid-free boxes.



Staff who worked on this project this past year included our collections interns (Élizabeth Leboeuf, Coralie Boisvert, and Alena Krasnikova) as well as our former Museum and Exhibits Coordinator Géraldine Franchomme, and myself. Thanks to the help of Marie Trottier, an expert in the field of book conservation, we also created customized boxes for some of the most important and fragile books from our special collections.



Even though the grant is now over, we still have several important collections projects that we would like to embark upon. If you would like to help financially support these initiatives, such as adding UV filters to the windows of the LHSQ Library, please let us know!

Library Pages

Book Reviews

I Only Read Murder

by Ian and Will Ferguson

Book review by Gail Cameron



Ian and Will Ferguson are well known Canadian authors. They co-wrote the award-winning best seller *How to be a Canadian* in 2001. During the pandemic, the brothers teamed up once again to deliver this very humorous mystery novel. It's to be the first of a promising new series!

I Only Read Murder fits right into the cozy mystery genre, and I confess to being a fan. The reader is introduced to Miranda Abbott, a former television actress known for her role as a crime-solving pastor, Pastor Fran, who has fallen upon hard times. A strange postcard has Miranda travelling to the small town of Happy Rock in the Pacific Northwest, where her estranged husband lives. Hoping to rekindle their relationship, she joins an amateur production of his play, Death is the Dickens, at the Happy Rock Little Theatre Company.

On opening night, an actor is murdered in plain sight. Chaos ensues! Who did it? Why? Is it the town doctor, the mechanic or a possible former spy? Everyone is a suspect, including Miranda. Not trusting the local law enforcement, she decides to take on the case herself with the help of her newfound friends. After multiple twists, turns, and an arrest, a culprit is found. But is the crime really solved? Time will tell! It's amusing to see how Miranda's mind works and how she manipulates those around her. She's determined to get things wrapped up to her satisfaction!

The Ferguson brothers succeed in weaving an amusing tale with a quirky heroine that leaves you wanting more. It was a pleasure to read, and I would recommend it to anyone who likes cozy mysteries. What an entertaining page-turner. I can't wait for the next in the series coming out later this year!

I had the good fortune of attending Will Ferguson's talk at the Imagination Writers' Festival in 2016. He had the audience hanging on his every word. I'm looking forward to seeing both him and his brother at this year's festival.

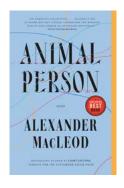
Happy reading!

I Only Read Murder (HarperCollins, 2023). *Also on OverDrive.

Animal Person

by Alexander MacLeod

Book review by Renée-Loup Caron



Alexander MacLeod is a master at connecting with his readers by describing mundane moments in life that are unspoken and lived in solitude, and yet are collectively shared experiences. In *Animal Person*, his latest collection of short stories, MacLeod explores the moments that resonate and stick with individuals for the rest

of their lives through eight stories, all pertaining to how individuals relate to the collective of society. The epigraphs MacLeod has chosen to introduce his short stories look at the relationship we, as individuals, have with our community: our loved ones and families.

Although my allegiance will always be to plays, this collection of short stories really captivated me and drew my attention in a way I had never experienced before. There was not a single story in which I did not recognize my own lived experience. Some of the moments within the short stories are precisely those that we have all experienced but are never expressed to another soul. For the first time, we get to connect to someone who has experienced those moments as well.

MacLeod delves into experiences such as getting your first pet, long travels with extended family, a first recital, and many more in a way that makes you recall your own similar moments while living through someone else's. *Animal Person* is a work that transcends generations; it shows the moments you remember as you get older and seek to revisit as they fade into the long line of memories that grow ever so distant. It is an amazingly cathartic read with stories that keep you on your toes, never truly knowing what's around the next page, and an excellent addition to your next weekend reading list.

Alexander MacLeod will be speaking at the 2024 Imagination Writers' Festival this April.

Animal Person (McClelland & Stewart, 2023). *Also on OverDrive.

Rage the Night

by Donna Morrissey

Book review by Aiden Roberts



It is early 1914 in St. Anthony, Newfoundland. Twenty-year-old Roan has just located his mother's tombstone, a mother whom he knows nothing about. He is determined to discover as much as he can despite having few leads, and immediately sets off on a life-changing journey, despite the protests of his mentor, Dr. Wilfrid Grenfell.

Roan first visits a dying woman. Her daughter, Ila, tells him that his unknown father is actually a man named Ashur Genge. Roan continues on his odyssey telling lla to go to stay with Dr. Grenfell while he heads to Deer Lake to take the train to William's Wood, where he believes his mother comes from.

When Roman arrives at William's Wood, he asks for directions to the home of the Genge family. He assumes he has found his mother's family. However, he says nothing. They assume he is looking for a berth on a sealing vessel that will soon be leaving from St. John's. They happen to have an extra pass for SS

Newfoundland. The following day, Roan along with a young man of the family (Freem) and a widowed uncle (possibly Roan's father) head off to St. John's to board the ship and leave for the sealing grounds.

The conditions aboard the Newfoundland are atrocious, especially for the sealers but less so for the officers. The rotting ship has no radio and cannot communicate with the other boats. It continuously gets stuck in the ice. The men are confined to the ship, fed little, and cannot get out to harvest the seals, which means no income for them.

On March 29, 1914, the captain sends the eager men overboard so they can make the long trek to where the seals are located. The men are to kill the seals and the ship will pick up the harvest later. The men are lightly dressed because the weather is mild and they have very little food. The captain assures them that his father, a captain of one of the newer, fancier ships, will provide them with a good meal when they get to where the seals are. Once they arrive, however, they are coldly received, given little to eat, and are hurried quickly off the boat stationed there, despite the deteriorating weather conditions.

The men responsible for the crew of the Newfoundland make several bad decisions as they all attempt to make it back to their ship. The weather worsens, and the men are cold, hungry, and fearful. Some of the suffering men curse the greedy merchants and captains, but everyone does their utmost to help each other stay alive.

The despairing men are prisoners of the ice for two days and nights. Some survive, but many die terrible deaths. Roan survives along with Freem. However, the uncle who has provided Roan, often reluctantly, with many answers to his questions is not so lucky.

The survivors and the corpses eventually make it back to port. With the information Roan has gathered, he knows where to go to complete his quest. Once completed, Roan looks forward to returning to St. Anthony and continuing his life there with the good doctor and some of the people he met on his quest as well as his new, hard-earned insights into life.

Library Pages

Following Roan as he journeys across Newfoundland and to the sealing grounds is worth the undertaking. You may, like Roan, come out of the experience a better person.

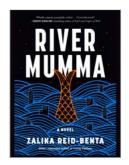
Donna Morrissey will be speaking at the 2024 Imagination Writers' Festival on Saturday, April 13.

Rage the Night (Penguin Canada, 2023). *Also on OverDrive.

River Mumma

by Zalika Reid-Benta

Book review by Katherine Carberry



"Yuh read about di chupid gods who give dem wives bun, having intercourse with mortals as stag and swan? What if one of dem gods did show himself, eh? You wudda ask him why he inna Canada?" (29)

After graduating from a prestigious creative writing

program in New York, 26-year-old Alicia returns to Toronto. Living at home with her mother, she finds herself adrift, without the career and literary community she worked so hard to build. Wandering Cruikshank Park on a winter night, a supernatural force pulls Alicia into the waters of the Humber River, where she encounters a mermaid-like deity, River Mumma, the protectress of Jamaica's waters. Reputed to bless those who honour her, River Mumma will not hesitate to exact violent justice upon anyone who disrespects her waters or consumes her children, the fish. Unmoored from her native land and angered by impiety, River Mumma has come to Canada to retrieve what has been taken from her. She entrusts Alicia with the quest to recover her golden comb, stolen by a Canadian tourist. So begins Alicia's odyssey through a Toronto in disarray, overrun with duppies, malevolent spirits from Jamaican folklore, and other troubled spirits. The novel's plot quickly unfolds over 24 hours as characters scramble to locate the comb in a peripatetic adventure.

Reid-Benta's prose bursts from the page. Her chapters are replete with clever dialogue and laugh-out-loud observations, which strike a bold contrast against her vivid renderings of the supernatural. Firmly anchored in the postcolonial literary tradition, *River Mumma* considers what we lose when pursuing external validation.

This is a novel in sustained dialogue with Lorna Goodison's poem, The River Mumma Wants Out, in which Reid-Benta reflects upon diasporic identity. Notably, the book explores how individuals remain connected to their history and culture through food, family, music, academic texts, and obeah. While Goodison uses River Mumma to critique a materialistic culture, Reid-Benta deploys this character for the similar purpose of critiquing an unfair culture of achievement that alienates individuals from their true selves. With its blend of magical realism and urban fantasy, Reid-Benta's follow-up to her acclaimed short story collection Frying Plantain is sure to enchant readers. Brimming with wit and vitality, River Mumma is a captivating story about diaspora and self-worth.

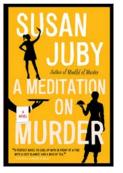
Zalika Reid-Benta will be speaking at the 2024 Imagination Writers' Festival this April.

River Mumma (Penguin Random House, 2023).

Mindful of Murder & Meditation on Murder

by Susan Juby

Book review by Susan Saul



Susan Juby's comedic mysteries Mindful of Murder and Mediation on Murder both feature the ever-calm Buddhist nun-turned-butler, Helen Thorpe.

In Mindful of Murder, Helen graduates from butler school and returns to the Yatra Institute,

where she had previously worked, to settle matters after the passing of the Institute's owner, Edna Todd—a death that is not necessarily what it seems. Helen needs to evaluate Edna's potential heirs, Wills, Tadd, Whitney, and Rayvn, to determine who should take over the running of the Institute. She is joined by fellow butlers Gavin, Murray, and neophyte Nigel, to arrange the courses at the Institute that the heirs need to follow in order for Helen to determine who should take over. The intensive self-discovery courses at the Yatra Institute include workshops with dance guru Wayfarer, flower arranging with Jenson, and meditation sessions with Helen. Of course, nothing is as it seems—weather intervenes, and everything leads to a nail-biting conclusion. In the end, there is more death, but everyone discovers things about themselves and each other.

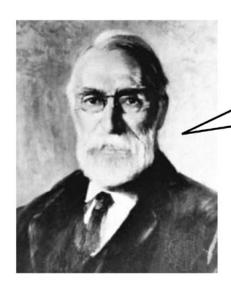
In Mediation on Murder, Helen is outside her natural element. Thrust into a world of influencers and social media, she is momentarily distracted from her centered balance. She is "loaned out" to help her employer's friend's daughter, Cartier Hightower, a want-to-be influencer who is peripherally part of an influencer collective, Deep State. But she is in the precarious position of having attracted at least one odious online troll. Helen calls on Nigel (the butler from Mindful of Murder) to help give clarity to the online world, which is beyond her knowledge.

When the death of a person connected to the group occurs, then a second, and Cartier's responses not only garner criticism, but circumstances superficially point toward her involvement, Helen does what she can to best control the situation. They retreat from Vancouver to Weeping Creek Ranch, where she hopes to control not only the environment, but also online access and social contact. Other members of Deep State (Keithen, Dixon, Amina, as well as manager Bryan) come to the ranch. Everyone is forced to unplug (at least temporarily) and experience life without a screen and without sharing, and to reflect on what brought them to where they are. Of course, there is resolution in the end—but not before danger, further injury, natural disaster, and death.

These are enjoyable mysteries that touch on more serious and involved subjects (if murder alone isn't enough) while developing the characters and drawing on humor. Clear-sighted and calm Helen makes an improbable detective, but those same traits are what gives her the ability to perceive the reality of what is happening without getting distracted by the superfluous. Both books present quirky, fun characters who are finding themselves, interesting situations, and, without spoiling what happens, feel-good endings.

Mindful of Murder (HarperCollins, 2022) & A Meditation on Murder (HarperCollins, 2024). *Both are on OverDrive.

In the Library Report of 1873, James Douglas, Jr. warned...



"Two thousand one hundred and eight volumes have been borrowed by members from the Library, but unfortunately a like number has not been returned. It will be necessary for the Council to enforce such penalties as the bylaws prescribe against members who persistently neglect, not only the Library rules, but the appeals made in writing by the Librarian to return borrowed books."

Although we've come a long way from needing such stern warnings, there are still occasionally long-overdue books missing from the library! Please be sure to return your books on time, or renew them online or via email.







Reading The History of Emily Montague

Come discover what some consider to be the "first Canadian novel"—The History of Emily Montague by Frances Brooke. The novel will be discussed over three Saturday afternoons. Note: it is possible to join any session!

PART II
PARTS III & IV

MARCH 2 at 4:30 MARCH 30 at 4:30 APRIL 27 at 4:30

The History of Emily Montague Symposium

Join us for a symposium on *The History of Emily Montague* on Saturday, May 11. Speakers include: Donald Fyson, Linda M. Morra, Peter Sabor, and Linda Sioui. The event will also include theatrical readings.



These activities are are in celebration of Frances Brooke's 300th birthday as well as the LHSQ's 200th anniversary! They are in partnership with the English literature program in the Département de littérature, théâtre et cinéma at Université Laval.

To learn more or to sign up, visit: morrin.org/emilymontague

Image: Frances Brooke by James Hopwood Sr. Stipple engraving (1812) National Portrait Gallery, D14044

<u>nali i dinii lak likua, laku linali lok ili aa, laku linali lok ili aa, laku linali lok ili </u>

Morrin Mystery Mondays Book Club

Mysteries and other cozies!

Every last Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. Come join us for an afternoon chat about books!

For more information, please email library@morrin.org



OVERDRIVE WORKSHOP:

GETTING STARTED WITH LIBBY

Join the OverDrive team for a one-hour "Getting Started with Libby" webinar. This online activity will show you everything you need to know to get started with Libby. From downloading the app & signing in, to searching & borrowing titles, placing holds, adjusting reading settings, and more!

For more information, please email library@morrin.org

April 3 at 2 P.M. - May 15 at 2 P.M.



2023-2024 BOOK CLUB

PIXELS & PAGES

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M.



THE NOISE OF TIME BY JULIAN BARNES OCTOBER 17



CLOSE TO HUGH
BY MARINA ENDICOTT
NOVEMBER 21



THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL DECEMBER 19



BY ANDREW SEAN GREER
JANUARY 16



THE LUMINARIES
BY ELEANOR CATTON
FEBRUARY 20



HAVEN BY EMMA DONOGHUE MARCH 19



BABEL BY R.F. KUANG APRIL 15 (MONDAY)*



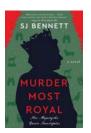
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New Aquisitions

Here are some of the new titles in our Library.

Books with an * are also available on OverDrive.



Murder Most Royal S.J. Bennett Fiction

B472 2023



Held* Anne Michaels Fiction M621 2023

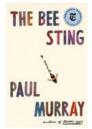


Legendary Authors and the Clothes they Wore

Terry Newman Non-Fiction 646.3 N555



The Observer Marina Endicott Fiction

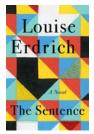


The Bee Sting Paul Murray Fiction M983 2023

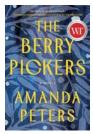


Fen, Bog & Swamp

Annie Proulx Non-Fiction 577.68 P968



The Sentence* Louise Erdrich Fiction E66 2021



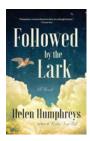
The Berry Pickers*

Amanda Peters Fiction P481 2023



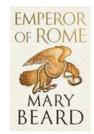
The Garden of Lost Socks

Esi Edugyan Junior Picture **IP EDU 2023**



Followed by the Lark

Helen Humphreys Fiction H927 2024



Emperor of Rome

Mary Beard Non-Fiction 937.06 B368



If You Were a City

Kyo Maclear Junior Picture **JP MAC 2022**



A Season in Chezgh'Un

Darrel J. McLeod Fiction M165 2023



How to Be a Renaissance Woman

Jill Burke Non-Fiction 391.63 B959



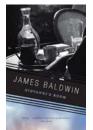
Weird Rules to Follow

Kim Spencer Junior Fiction JF SPE 2022

What's New on OverDrive

Here are some of the new e-book and audiobook titles now available. Log in to the Morrin Centre's OverDrive system at morrin.overdrive.com with your membership card to check out our latest acquisitions.

Books with an * are also available as a physical copy in the Library.



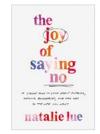
Giovanni's Room*

James Baldwin

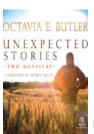
Fiction



August Blue
Deborah Levy
Fiction

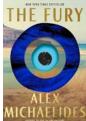


The Joy of Saying No Natalie Lue Non-Fiction



Unexpected Stories
Octavia F. Butler

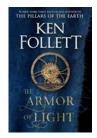
UNEXPECTED Octavia E. Butler
STORIES
Fiction
Fiction



The Fury
Alex Michaelides
Fiction

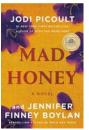


The Gifts of Reading
Robert Macfarlane
Non-Fiction



The Armour of Light*

Ken Follett Fiction



Mad Honey

Jodi Picoult & Jennifer Finney Boylan Fiction



5 Ingredients*

Jamie Oliver Cooking

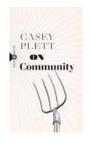


Wait Softly Brother Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer Fiction



The Phoenix Crown

Kate Quinn & Janie Change Fiction



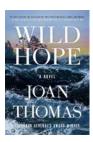
On Community

Casey Plett Non-Fiction



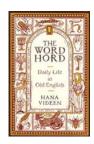
The Future

Catherine Leroux Fiction



Wild Hope*

Joan Thomas Fiction



The Wordhord: Daily Life in Old English

Hana Videen Non-Fiction

ORRIN IN VERSE

Reading Poetry Workshop Sunday, March 24 @ 5:00 p.m.

Poetry Express Workshop Sunday, April 21 @ 3:00 p.m.

Society Pages Poetry Contest Submission deadline: Monday, May 6, 2024

Reading Poetry Workshop for Kids Tuesday, May 14 @ 6:00 p.m.

Writing Poetry Workshop for Kids Tuesday, May 21 @ 6:00 p.m.

Poetry Soirée Monday, June 3 @ 7:30 p.m.

Concert: Poetry & Song Wednesday, June 26 @ 7:00 p.m.

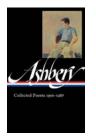
Poetry Displays:
Ongoing in the Library

To learn more or to sign up for these activities, visit morrin.org/morrininverse



New in Poetry

As part of the *Morrin In Verse* project, the Morrin Centre has added a number of poetry books to the Library. Here are some highlights.



Collected Poems, 1956–1987 John Ashbery 811.54 A819



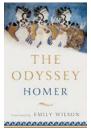
Xanax Cowboy Hannah Green 811.6 G796



Knife on Snow Alice Major 819.12 M234



Citronella Loch Baillie 819.12 B157



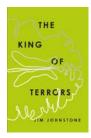
Odyssey
Homer
*New translation by
Emily Wilson!
883.01 H766



A "Working Life" Eileen Myles 811.54 M997



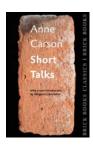
Bottom Rail on Top D.M. Bradford 819.12 B799



The King of Terrors Jim Johnstone 811.6 J72



Beholden Rita Wong & Fred Wah 819.11 W136



Short Talks Anne Carson 819.12 C321



Slows: TwiceT. Liem
819.12 L719



Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems Bob Raczka J 811.6 RAC



Lemon Drop LyricsSierra Duffey
819.12 D856



Only as the Day is Long Dorianne Laux 811 L391



There Was a Party for Langston Jason Reynolds & Jerome Pumphrey (ill.) JB LAN 2023



	General Public	Students
Festival Pass	\$40	\$25
Individual Event Ticket	\$15	\$7

Visit <u>morrin.org/imagination</u> to buy your ticket(s)!

Morrin Centre members receive 25% off all general public ticket prices, including the festival pass.

Morrin Centre members, students, and Festival pass holders receive 25% off the price of Books & Wine and Tea & Imagination tickets.



MEET THE AUTHOR
Youth Event (7 to 13 YO) with
Kim Spencer
Tuesday, April 9, 6:00 p.m.

Kim Spencer (she/her) graduated from the Writers Studio at Simon Fraser University, where she focused on creative nonfiction. Her best-selling debut novel, Weird Rules to Follow, was named a USBBY 2023 Outstanding International Book and a Bank Street College of Education Children's Book Committee Best Children's Books of the Year. It was also nominated for and won many awards. Kim is Ts'msyen from the Gitxaala Nation in northwest BC and lives in Vancouver.

In partnership with Cow's Ice Cream.



MOON OF THE TURNING LEAVES 2019 alumnus – Waubgeshig Rice Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Waubgeshig Rice (he/him) is an author and journalist from Wasauksing First Nation. He has written four fiction titles, and his short stories and essays have been published in numerous anthologies. His breakthrough novel, Moon of the Crusted Snow, was published in 2018 and became a national bestseller. The sequel, Moon of the Turning Leaves, was published in October 2023. He left the CBC, where he spent most of his journalism career, in 2020 to focus on his literary career.

In partnership with CBC Québec.



WILD HOPE 2015 alumna – Joan Thomas Tuesday, April 9, 8:00 p.m.

Joan Thomas's (she/her) five novels are intimate depictions of characters in times of rapid social change. Wild Hope (2023) is a contemporary love story, mystery, and social criticism. Five Wives (2019), The Opening Sky (2014), Curiosity (2010), and Reading by Lightning (2008) were nominated for and won a number of prizes. Joan lives in Winnipeg. In 2014, she was awarded the Writers Trust of Canada Engel Findley Prize for mid-career achievement.



WINNIE-THE-POOH **Travis Dandro** Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.

Travis Dandro (he/him) is an American cartoonist who was born in Leicester, Massachusetts. He started publishing his first comic strip, *Twerp*, in the local weekly newspaper when he was 13 years old. In 1996 Travis graduated from Montserrat College of Art with a degree in fine art. Since then, his comics have appeared in dozens of college newspapers in the United States and Canada. He has published two memoirs, *Hummingbird Heart* and *King of King Court*, which won the Lynd Ward Prize for graphic novel of the year. His most recent book is *Winnie-the-Pooh*, the first graphic novel inspired by AA Milne's classic stories.



GRAPHIC NOVEL WORKSHOP

With **Travis Dandro** Wednesday, April 10, 8:00 p.m.

Join Travis Dandro as he discusses graphic novels, cartoons, and how to turn words into images! Learn fascinating behind-the-scene tips and tricks, and try your hand at illustrating a story.



BOOKS & WINE

Gathering + Tasting Thursday, April 11, 6:00 p.m.

Ian & Will Ferguson
I Only Read Murder
Taras Grescoe
The Lost Supper
Felicia Mihali
A Ramshackle Home

Sommelier Bianca Thériault (she/her) will present wines that she has selected to perfectly complement three books featured at this year's festival. The authors will discover which wine pairs with their book and learn how their stories inspired the sommelier. Participants will get to taste each wine alongside a delicious appetizer. This is the perfect opportunity to become more familiar with books from the festival and to meet their authors.

In partnership with **Equilibre** and **La Maison Anglaise**.



I ONLY READ MURDER
Ian Ferguson
2016 alumnus – Will Ferguson
Thursday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

Ian Ferguson won the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour for his book *Village of the Small Houses*, and is the co-author, with his brother Will Ferguson, of the runnaway bestseller *How to be a Canadian: even if you already are one*.

Will Ferguson (he/him) is a travel writer and author, and three-time winner of the Leacock Medal for Humour. His debut novel, *HapinessTM*, was sold in twenty-three languages. His recent novel, *The Finder*, won the Arthur Ellis Award for Crime Fiction.



UNE TRADUCTION

At the Maison de la littérature Thursday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

Felicia Mihali – 2012 alumna Author - Le pays du fromage Judith Weisz Woodsworth Translator - A Ramshackle Home

The meaningful work and relationship between the author and the translator are at the core of this discussion about the art of translation and A Ramshackle Home.

This event is presented in partnership with the Maison de la littérature. It will take place in French and include a bilingual Q&A.



CELIA, MISOKA, I 2018 alumnus – Xue Yiwei Friday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.

Xue Yiwei (he/him) has a B.Sc. in computer science, an M.A. in literature, and a Ph.D. in linguistics. He is the acclaimed author of twenty books, including *Desertion, Dr. Bethune's Children,* and *Shenzheners,* as well as *The Empty Nest,* which topped major literary charts in China. His books have been translated into English, French, and Swedish. He lives in Montreal.

To register, visit morrin.org/imagination



THE LOST SUPPER
2021 alumnus - Taras Grescoe
Friday, April 12, 8:30 p.m.

Taras Grescoe (he/him) is a non-fiction specialist and author of eight books—and counting. He writes about food, transit, history, the environment, travel, stories big and small. His words have been published in many, many places. He is a father, a husband, sometimes a teacher; a straphanger, a bike-rider, a seeker of lost suppers.



STORYTIME: BONEY

Youth Event (3-7 YO) with 2020 alumnus – Cary Fagan Saturday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.

Cary Fagan (he/him) has been called a "beloved" children's writer by *Quill & Quire* and is a recipient of many awards, including the Vicky Metcalf Award for Young People for his body of work and the Joan Betty Stuchner—Oy Vey!—Funniest Children's Book Award. His work has been translated into sixteen languages. Cary is also a much-acclaimed author of books for adults.



SPIRITS IN THE DARK

30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

2013 alumnus – H. Nigel Thomas

Saturday, April 13, 11:30 a.m.

H. Nigel Thomas (he/him) immigrated to Canada from St Vincent and the Grenadines in 1968. He taught English and French at the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal and was later a professor of United States literature at l'Université Laval. He is the author of thirteen books that include essays, novels, short fiction, and poetry. He is the recipient of many awards, the most recent being the 2022 Canada Council for the Arts John Molson Prize for the Arts.



POETRY WORKSHOP EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO WRITE A POEM (AND HOW IT CAN SAVE A LIFE)

2023 alumnus – Daniel Scott Tysdal Saturday, April 13, 1:00 p.m.

Daniel Scott Tysdal (he/him) is a writer, filmmaker, and teacher. Tysdal's works include the ReLit Awardwinning poetry collection *Predicting the Next Big Advertising Breakthrough Using a Potentially Dangerous Method*, the critically acclaimed *Fauxccasional Poems*, and the viral TEDx talk, "Everything You Need to Write a Poem (and How It Can Save a Life)." His most recent collection of poetry is *The End Is in the Middle: Mad Fold-In Poems*.



A RIP THROUGH TIME SERIES

Kelley Armstrong

Satuday, April 13, 2:00 p.m.

Kelley Armstrong (she/her) believes experience is the best teacher, though she's been told this shouldn't apply to writing her murder scenes. Armstrong is the author of the A Rip Through Time and Rockton mystery series. Past works include the Otherworld urban fantasy series, the Cainsville gothic mystery series, the Nadia Stafford thriller trilogy, the Darkest Powers & Darkness Rising teen paranormal series, the Age of Legends teen fantasy series, and the Royal Guide to Monster Slaying middle-grade fantasy series.



PUBLISHING INSIGHTS 2022 alumna – Linda Leith Satuday, April 13, 3:30 p.m.

Born in Northern Ireland, Montreal writer Linda Leith (she/her) is the author of eight books. The founder of Blue Metropolis Foundation in 1997 and President & Artistic Director of the multilingual Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival until 2010, she created Linda Leith Publishing | Linda Leith Éditions in 2011, Salon .ll. in 2011, and Font magazine in 2021. Awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal in 2012, she was named an officer of the Order of Canada for her contribution to Canada in 2020.

In partnership with CBC Quebec.



EVERYTHING IS ORI Paul Serge Forest Satuday, April 13, 5:00 p.m.

Paul Serge Forest (he/him) was born in 1984 on the North Shore of Quebec. His first novel, *Everything is Ori* (QC Fiction, 2023, translation by David Warriner), won the Robert-Cliche prize for first novel in 2021 and was nominated for numerous prizes in France and Quebec. It will also be adapted into a movie. Paul Serge lives, writes, and practices medicine in Montreal. His next novel will be published in French by VLB éditeur in the fall of 2024.





BECAUSE

Andrew Steinmetz Satuday, April 13, 6:30 p.m.

Andrew Steinmetz (he/him) is an author and lifelong musician who strums the guitar and pushes a pen to make an almost-happy living. Steinmetz has been a finalist for both the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. In 2003, Steinmetz became the founding editor of Esplanade Books, the fiction imprint of Véhicule Press.



RAGE THE NIGHT 2017 alumna – Donna Morrissey

Satuday, April 13, 8:00 p.m.

Donna Morrissey has written six nationally bestselling novels. She has received awards in Canada, the U.S., and England. Her novel *Sylvanus Now* was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, and she was nominated for a Gemini for best writing for the film *Clothesline Patch*. Her fiction has been translated into several different languages. Born and raised in Newfoundland, she now lives in Halifax.



TEA & IMAGINATION

Gathering + Tasting Sunday, April 14, 11:00 a.m.

Since 2010, the Morrin Centre has been the proud organizer of the Imagination Writers' Festival. From a modest beginning with thirteen authors and eight events to an established annual event welcoming almost thirty authors, multiple events, and the Imagination in Schools program, the festival has seen a lot of growth over the years.

For its fifteenth year, come celebrate the history of the festival and its notable guests and activities, and enjoy the videos and images collected throughout these fifteen years of activity, all while sampling the Morrin Centre's new blends of tea and enjoying delicious treats!

Did you notice?

The Imagination 2024 lineup has alumni from almost all previous editions of the festival!

2010 – Neil Bissoondath 2016 – Will Ferguson 2021 – Taras Grescoe

2011 – Alexander MacLeod 2017 – Donna Morrissey 2022 – Linda Leith

2012 – Felicia Mihali 2018 – Xue Yiwei 2023 – Daniel Scott Tysdal

2013 – H. Nigel Thomas 2019 – Waubgeshig Rice

2015 – Joan Thomas 2020 – Cary Fagan



A WEALTH OF SHORT STORIES - PANEL Sunday, April 14, 12:45 p.m.

Sarah Gilbert
Our Lady of Mile End
Alexander MacLeod
2011 alumnus
Animal Person

Writing short stories is no less of a challenge than any other form of literary expression, but authors such as Sarah Gilbert (she/her) and Alexander MacLeod (he/him) excel at conveying a complete, and at times complex, narrative in this concise format. Come gain insight on how an author can fit plot twists, clever dialogue, and much more in just a few pages, and learn about the wealth of meaning and topics that short stories can cover.



(SELF)-CENSORING IN AN AGE OF NATIONALIST AND IDENTITY POLITICS 2010 alumnus – Neil Bissondath Sunday, April 14, 2:30 p.m.

Neil Bissoondath (he/him) is the author of eight internationally published works of fiction going back to 1985, with his highly successful story collection Digging up the Mountains. His work has twice won the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and has been shortlisted twice for France's Prix Femina (étranger). He has served on the board of PEN Canada, and has been awarded two honorary doctorates. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Québec.



RIVER MUMMA Zalika Reid-Benta Sunday, April 14, 3:45 p.m.

Zalika Reid-Benta (she/her) is a Canadian writer. Her debut novel *River Mumma* has been described as "a powerful yet funny, thrilling yet zany exploration of the past and present" and a "must read" by the *Toronto Star*. Reid-Benta's debut short story collection *Frying Plantain* was shortlisted for and won many awards. Her picture book, *Twelve Days of Jamaican Christmas*, will be published in 2025.



LITERARY NOTES

Spoken word and music Sunday, April 14, 5:00 p.m.

Caitlin Murphy Raïssa Simone Deb Vanslet

The Morrin Centre once again joins forces with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec to present a notewordy concert. Tune in to listen to readings by winnersand nominee from the Quebec Writers' Federation Ian Ferrier Spokn Word Prize, accompanied by music chosen and performed by the Orchestre symphonique de Québec musicians which captures the spirit of their books.

In partnership with the Orchestre symphonique de Québec and the Quebec Writers' Federation.

Want to borrow the Imagination books?

morrin.overdrive.com

Want to buy the Imagination books?

lamaisonanglaise.com

Imagination in Schools

April 9-April 12

Imagination in Schools authors

Kelley Armstrong Erin Bow Cary Fagan Naseen Hrab Kim Spencer Wanda Taylor



We would like to thank the **schools**, **authors**, and **students** participating in the 2024 Imagination in Schools program. Creating opportunities for dialogue and connections between writers and youth is an important part of Imagination's mission!

MAJOR PARTNERS | PARTENAIRES MAJEURS









PARTNERS | PARTENAIRES



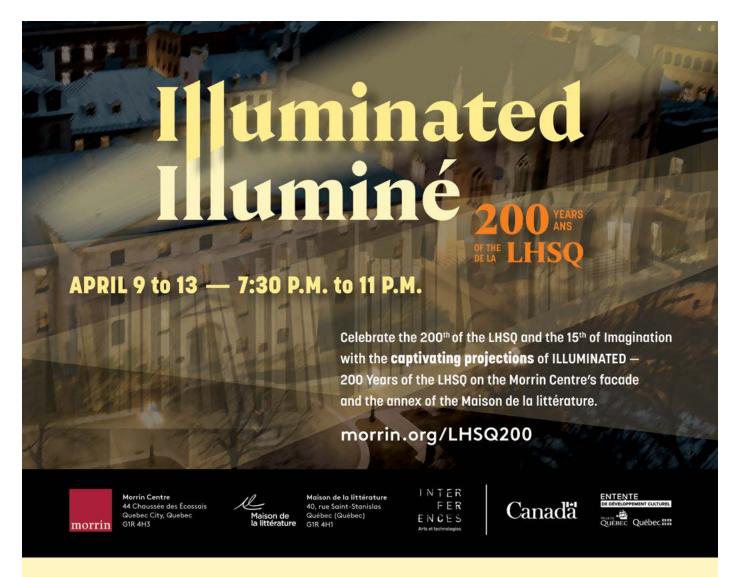












On the Facade of the Morrin Centre

A 40-minute artistic audio-visual projection about the history of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec.

Showings at 8 and 9:15 P.M.

On the Annex of the Maison de la littérature

Live projection of writings and translations by Canadian writers, evolving under your eyes.

7:30-8:20 PM + 9:30-10:10 PM = ENG 8:30-9:20 PM + 10:20-11:00 PM = FR

April 9: Erin Bow, Virginie Chaloux

April 10: Louisa Blair + Diogo Mochcovitch, Carolane Foucher

April 11: Sean Michaels, Anne Marie Desmeules

April 12: Éric Dupont, Peter McCambridge

April 13: Kelley Armstrong, Éric Dupont + Peter McCambridge

Events & Activities

LHSQ200 EVENTS & EXHIBITS

Discover some of our upcoming LHSQ200 events and exhibits!

The History of Emily Montague Project: For the 200th anniversary of the LHSQ, and the 300th anniversary of author Frances Brooke, we're partnering with Université Laval to explore Brooke's *The History of Emily Montague* (1769), which is considered by some to be the first Canadian novel! Come join us in reading the fascinating epistolary novel over three sessions in March and April, and attend our Symposium on May 11.

Exterior Projections: From April 9 through 13, celebrate the 200th anniversary of the LHSQ and the 15th anniversary of Imagination with the captivating projections of *ILLUMINATED*: 200 Years of the LHSQ on the Morrin Centre's facade and on the annex of the Maison de la littérature.

Interactive Historical Re-Enactment: do you like history and theater? This event is made for you! In the fall, the Morrin Centre will organise an interactive historical event centred around the history of the Morrin Centre.

Currently on Display:

Celebrating 200 Years of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec: A exhibit of books and artifacts from our special collections that provide an overview of the Society's interests in the 19th century. **On display: January 6-April 15.**

Learn more at morrin.org/LHSQ200



Postcards from Quebec – Celebrating Our Cultural Diversity: A Recap

By Noora Heiskanen



A convivial atmosphere was found right from the start of each cultural fair of our Postcards from Quebec project. During the first hour of the event, participants freely chose the order in which they did activities, with time for chatting when moving from one activity table to another. All visitors, young and old, English- and French-speaking, were invited to illustrate and write postcards addressed to people living in the featured regions (the Caribbean, Africa, East Asia, West Asia, and South & Central America) with messages about life in Quebec City, including its beautiful sights and nature. At each cultural fair there was a display of books from our library highlighting interesting readings by writers from the selected regions. On more than one occasion, kids' crafts also attracted interest among some adults who were keen to be creative. Among other things, they tried building masterpieces of African architecture with thin wooden blocks and used scissors and paper to make Chinese paper lanterns.

The high point of these Sunday afternoon events were the presentations and performances spotlighting different music or dance traditions, featuring a rich variety of artists. We learned about Haitian percussion instruments from Emmanuel Delly and experienced dynamic rhythms and movements at Mohamed

Keita's African dance workshop. A talk on Arabic music by Aziz Daouni covered a wide range of topics, from the *maqam* system of melodic modes to famous Arabic singers of the past century. A Chinese dance show by the *Volent les papillons* troupe enchanted us with its fine gestures and vibrant colors, and Federico Tarazona's concert and talk took us for a quick visit in the Andes.

Important to the events' success were also the delicious snacks and drinks provided by local partners including Regal Kreyol, La Calebasse, Camellia Sinensis, La Galette Libanaise, Fanamanga, and Tintico café. The foods sampled included stuffed potatoes papa rellena, falafels served in galettes, a selection of mochi (soft Japanese rice-cakes), and some degue (African millet oatmeal in yogourt).

There were undoubtedly some first-time experiences for the participants, and this project's cultural scope was wider than in some other Morrin Centre event series. It is a cliché to say that cultural diversity is a richness, but it is the experience *Postcards From Quebec* offered in the form of arts, flavors, and crafts. It is worth celebrating.

This project was made possible with support from the Government of Canada and Québecor.

Upcoming Events: General Public



Have you enjoyed our *Building Our Community* talks this winter and spring? Keep your eyes peeled, because the second half of the project is in the works!

You will soon be able to enjoy self-guided tours: one walking tour centered in Old Quebec, and one driving tour reaching farther out in the city. Through folding maps, discover Quebec City institutions and organisations, and learn more about their history!

Stay tuned!



April is National Poetry month, and the Morrin Centre is holding its fifth annual *Society Pages* Poetry Contest again this year! The contest is open to all topics and all genres of poems (haikus, sonnets, concrete poetry, etc.), whatever strikes your fancy.

The winning poem and the runners-up will be published in the Summer issue of *Society Pages* as well as in a forthcoming poetry book published by the Morrin Centre.

The contest will run until **Monday**, **May 6**, **2024**. Please send your poetry submissions to <u>societypages@morrin.org</u>. Only 1 submission per person.

This activity is part of the *Morrin In Verse* project. See page 14 of this issue of *Society Pages* to learn more about all of the *Morrin In Verse* activities! The *Morrin In Verse* project is made possible thanks to the Government of Canada.



April is Poetry Month!

Stop by the Library to see poetry from Strong Threads members & visual poetry created by participants from the mixed media workshops!

New Exhibit

Our new prison exhibit will be opening soon. Stay tuned for more details!

The LHSQ Library Collection

Stay tuned for book workshops featuring highlights from our special collection. Learn about publishing in Quebec City as well as the LHSQ collections.

Upcoming Events: Youth Events



Storytime is a literacy program for children ages 3 to 7 that takes place on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Each activity begins with the reading of a story followed by a craft inspired by the week's theme.



The S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Club welcomes children ages 8 to 13 who love to experiment, create, and learn more about the world around them. The Club meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

April 13	Boney	April 9	Meet the Author
	Special Guest: Cary Fagan		Special Guest: Kim Spencer
April 20	Our House is on Fire Earth Day Theme	April 16	Making Speakers
		April 23	Making a Kaleidoscope
April 27	Bompa's Insect Expedition	April 30	Anime Illustration Workshop
May 4	The Imposter	1	Special Guest: Cindy Courchesne
May 11	Special Mothers' Day book and activity	May 7	Natural Science Workshop
		May 14	Poetry Workshop I
May 18	Lila Greer, Teacher of the Year	·	Special Guest: Luc Murray Mercier
May 25	The New Friend	May 21	Poetry Workshop II
June 1	Grandmothers Galore!		Special Guest: Frank Beltrano
J		May 28	Watercolor Workshop Special Guest

For more information, contact our Education Coordinator at manuelafloresdenti@morrin.org.



Did you know?

Morrin Centre members get discounts at many of our partner organizations!



30% off

on memberships



20% off

on ticket prices



20% off

on individual tickets for regular-season concerts



15% off

on print and online annual subscriptions



10% off

on all purchases

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Québec Imagination Writers' Festival

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